

## METHOD FOR AVOIDING DELAYS DURING SNOOP REQUESTS

### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of and apparatus for improving the efficiency of a data processing system employing a multiple level cache memory system. The efficiencies result from enhancing the response to SNOOP requests. To accomplish this, the system memory bus is provided separate and independent paths to the level two cache and tag memories. Therefore, SNOOP requests are permitted to directly access the tag memories without reference to the cache memory. Secondly, the SNOOP requests are given a higher priority than operations associated with local processor data requests. Though this may slow down the local processor, the remote processors have less wait time for SNOOP operations improving overall system performance.